IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CENTRE CENTRE CONFICE MAY I TOO TO THE Unit: 2176

Confirmation No. Technology Center 2100 Userndon Technology Center 2100

In re application of:

Germeraad et al.

Appl. No. 09/545,564

Filed: April 7, 2000

Patent-Related Tools and

Methodology for Use in Research

and Development Projects

Atty. Docket: 1531.0310001

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

For:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

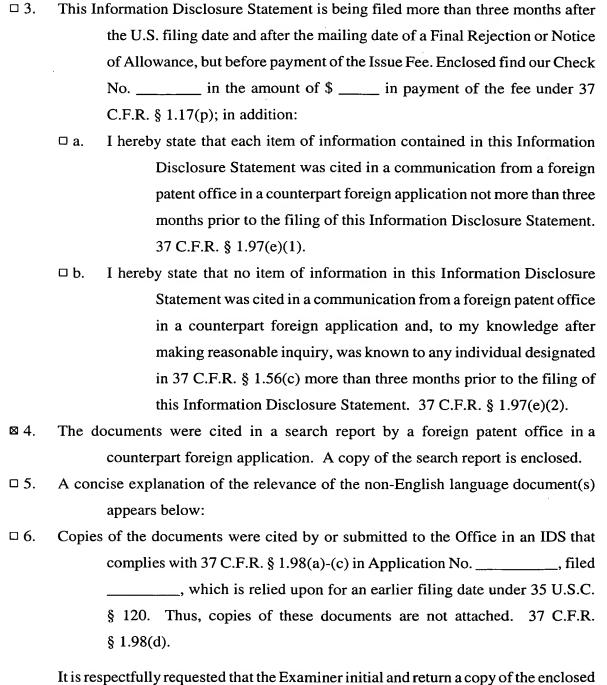
Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- □ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - □ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - □ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
 - □ c. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ ____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).



PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this pleading is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Morey amou Molly A. McCall

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May 16, 2001

Technology Contact of the state of the state

*LIMITED TO MATTERS
AND PROCEEDINGS BEFORE
FEDERAL COURTS & AGENCIES
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GROUP ART UNIT: 2176
Examiner: Heather Herndon

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Appl. No. 09/545,564; Filed: April 7, 2000

For: Patent-Related Tools and Methodology for Use in Research and

Development Projects

Inventors:

Germeraad et al.

Our Ref:

1531.0310001

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) (in duplicate);
- 2. Form PTO-1449 with eleven (11) accompanying documents; and
- 3. One return post card.

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Commissioner for Patents May 16, 2001 Page 2

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 46,126

MQL/MAM/tp Enclosures

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